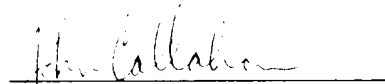


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/918,500

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-75 are pending in the present application. Non-elected Claim 76 has been cancelled. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Callahan  
Registration No. 32,607

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: December 13, 2002



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/918,500

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 76 is canceled.